



Commonwealth
of Australia

Letters patent

Patents Act 1990

4164-69
No.
697582

STANDARD PATENT

I, Vivienne Joyce Thom, Commissioner of Patents, grant a Standard Patent with the following particulars:

Name and Address of Patentee:

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Title of Invention: Computer network for controlling and monitoring gaming devices

Application Number: 48478/97

Term of Letters Patent: Twenty years commencing on 26 July 1995

Divisional of: 686824

Dated this 5 day of April 2001

V.J. THOM
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS





AU9748478

(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-48478/97
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 697582

- (54) Title
COMPUTER NETWORK FOR CONTROLLING AND MONITORING GAMING DEVICES
- International Patent Classification(s)
(51)⁶ G06F 161/00 G06F 019/00 G07D 009/00
- (21) Application No. : 48478/97 (22) Application Date : 18.12.97
- (30) Priority Data
- (31) Number (32) Date (33) Country
322172 12.10.94 US UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- (43) Publication Date : 26.02.98
- (44) Publication Date of Accepted Application : 08.10.98
- (62) Related to Division(s) : 27192/95
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- (56) Prior Art Documents
AU 71194/91
AU 27572/84
US 5280909
- (57) Claim

1. A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer having a user-generated input device comprising:

associating each gaming device with a unique address code;

selecting less than all of the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network responsive to a user-effected action at the input device which identifies the selected gaming devices with the respective associated address codes;

using the network to track the amount of money played on the selected gaming devices;

allocating a predetermined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool;

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providing data establishing criteria to cause a bonus to be paid from the pool via one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event;

storing the data in a memory connected to a controller associated with only one of the gaming devices;

transmitting data indicative of gaming device activity from the gaming device to the controller;

transmitting a pay command from the controller to the gaming device upon the occurrence of the predetermined event; and

paying money from the bonus pool via the gaming device responsive to receipt of the pay command.